

March 1, 2023
Members of the Education Committee
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 1096

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Ramona Santelises and I am the President of The Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut. I am addressing you today to express my support regarding S.B. 1096, which relates to the approval process for charter schools in our State.

In particular, I am concerned that the requirements set forth in the current approval process for public charters are unduly stringent. While it is true that all schools must meet certain standards, it is not fair that charter schools should be subjected to additional requirements that do not apply to other public schools.

I believe modifications should be made to the existing law, as it leaves already approved schools, such as the Danbury Charter School, in limbo. Families and their children can not wait indefinitely for schools they support and need!

Charter schools are an important part of Connecticut's education system, and provide valuable options for families seeking alternatives to traditional schools. These schools have a proven success rate of improving the academic performance of students, especially those from disadvantaged communities.

However, charter schools also face unique challenges in terms of funding and resources, and it is important that they not be burdened with excessive requirements that may hinder their ability to open their doors and serve our community with high-quality educational choices for our students.

Therefore, I urge the members of the Education Committee to consider the requirements set forth by S.B. 1096, and to work to find a fair and equitable balance in the approval process for public charter schools.

Dear members of this Committee, as a community leader and educator myself, I want to tell you that you are the ones who have the control and the decision to pass this bill. I have faith and hope that you will support the passage of this bill and when it does, our youth and parents will be so very pleased that you have made a decision that will bring forth so much good to our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,

Ramona Santelises
President, The Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut.